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Dr. Jane Summerson
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Dear Dr. Summerson:

I am a senior citizen concerned about human rights around the world. I am writing to comment on the Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain. As a resident of St. Louis, I am aware that 76 of the 103 operating commercial nuclear reactors are located to the east of the Mississippi River. The transportation of spent nuclear fuel through St. Louis represents a grave hazard to our health and safety.

Transportation accidents do happen. On May 31, 2001, fourteen coal cars derailed and dumped their contents across the street from homes in Webster Groves, a suburb of St. Louis. On May 15, a runaway train traveled for over 70 miles through two counties in Ohio before it was stopped. The freight on this train included hazardous materials.

Storage of all nuclear spent fuel at Yucca Mountain has not been proven safe. The site has 33 earthquake faults. In 1992, an earthquake caused significant damage to the DOE's own Yucca Mountain research facility. The Lathrop Wells cinder cones, a young volcanic field, lies only ten miles away

Unless and until the nuclear industry figures out where and how to isolate radioactive waste from human populations, it should stop generating more waste. The waste can be more safely contained on the sites where it was generated. Transporting the waste through St. Louis and other communities across the country amounts to an unacceptable risk to human health.

Needless to say, the U.S. government has a fundamental responsibility to protect the right of all its citizens to health and well-being. This right is guaranteed under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its social, economic and cultural covenants.

I hope that the Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain will reflect the concerns I have raised and that transportation of radioactive fuel rods and other nuclear wastes, will be suspended at once. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Patricia Sheridan

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